

**Washington State**  
**Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety**

PO Box 90012  
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012



June 4, 2003

Tom Sykes – Legislative Auditor  
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee  
506 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Olympia, WA 98501-2323

Dear Mr. Sykes:

The Washington Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety was created by the legislature in the 2000 Pipeline Safety Act. We have had the opportunity to advise the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) from its early stages in developing the comprehensive safety program called for in that Act. We have been pleased with the program's direction.

At the Committee's recent meeting on May 20, 2003, we discussed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) preliminary report on the WUTC's Pipeline Safety program and would like to make the following observations.

The Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety recommends that two important clarifications be incorporated into JLARC's final report.

- 1) A clarifying statement should be added indicating that for the critically important interstate pipeline systems, any change that the WUTC may wish to make to the pipeline inspection processes must receive prior approval from the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS). Failure to receive such prior approval can jeopardize the WUTC's pipeline "Interstate Agency" status with OPS, a serious issue for the State of Washington.
- 2) It is the Committee's understanding that recent discussions regarding some changes in the pipeline interstate inspection process have been agreed to, indicating that OPS and the WUTC are working in a positive manner to improve pipeline inspection effectiveness. This Committee supports and plans to remain informed on the progress of these critical improvements. We believe comments supporting this positive effort between OPS and the WUTC should be encouraged and mentioned in any final report.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Mosher".

Chuck Mosher  
Committee Chairman